



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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NOV 11 2004

November 1, 2004
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

Dear Interested Party:

In February 2002 we captured 10 mountain goats in the Crazy Mountains near Big Timber, MT and released them north of Red Mountain in the Scapegoat Wilderness near Lincoln, MT. The release within the Wilderness was accomplished with helicopter transport and permitted by the Helena National Forest after an environmental review and public involvement process that complied with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Montana Environmental Policy Act. Your comments were solicited for that project in Fall 2001.

During ground and aerial surveys conducted during July and August 2004, we learned that 13 mountain goats are now in the Red Mountain area and reproducing. This information was very encouraging. Still, because this population is very small, it is vulnerable to possibly devastating climatic and ecological factors. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is proposing to supplement the above-described mountain goat population with 5-10 more mountain goats to insure a viable mountain goat population in that area. We expect the operation to be very similar to the one in 2002. The major difference would be that goats would be captured on private land east of Great Falls, before being trailered to Lincoln for subsequent helicopter transport to Red Mountain. Weather and other factors cooperating, the transplant would be accomplished sometime around January 1, 2005.

The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is the lead agency responsible for the transplant and management of the mountain goat population. The Helena National Forest is the major cooperating agency responsible for permitting helicopter use within the Wilderness, land and habitat management. The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation will provide a pilot and helicopter to transport the goats from a staging area in lower Copper Creek to Red Mountain. The Safari Club International and several private donors are providing funding for this project.

If you have comments, please send them to Bob Henderson, FWP, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59804, phone (406)542-5500 or email: bhenderson@state.mt.us. Comments will be accepted until 5 pm on November 30, 2004.

Sincerely yours,

Mack Long
Regional Supervisor

1. The first part of the document is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various offices of the city of New York.